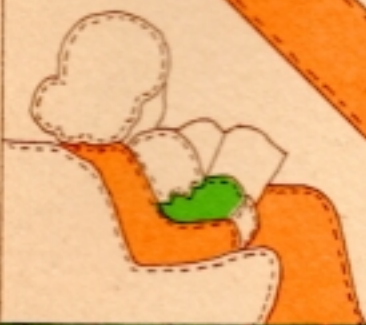


The Grandparent Book



Presented to:

Grandpa

By:

Ura, Ken and
Connie

This book is given in the hope
that you will someday return it to
your grandchildren, complete with
your memories and reflections.



by
Marcy Jackson

Dedicated to children
and grandparents
everywhere



ABOUT YOUR FAMILY...



1. From what country or countries did your family ancestors emigrate? When was this and where did they settle?

My mother's father's family originally came from Scotland - Probably shortly before the Gold Rush. Her mother's family came from Germany in 1853 - That's the Dominicks - The Ducot line - Pierre - came from France about 1854. -
My father's family - ancestors - mostly came from England - from the early - 1600's on up. -

2. What are your parents' names?

My father's name was - Fay White

My mother's name was - Sarah Agnes Bright
(married Fay White - div. 1940 - and then married Charles Ritsch - 1941) -

3. When and where were they born?

My father was born in Riley Kansas June 23, 1894

My mother was born near La Grange, Calif August 6,
(near San Pedro Dam) 1895

4. What was your mother's maiden name?

My mother's maiden name was - Sarah Agnes
Bright - (named after her grandmother)

5. What do you remember most about your mother from your childhood?

She was good to us children, but had to
work most of the time - Cannery - Modesto
Steam Laundry - and French Laundry.

6. What do you remember most about your father?

He liked to take us camping - fishing and such
when we were young. He was pretty easy
going and everyone liked him. (Especially
the women. He was a good dancer.)

7. What work did your parents do?

My mother worked at a local cannery, then at the
French Steam Laundry and later years at the dehydrator south of town.

My father in early years, picked up milk from dairy
farmers - Drove a Union Oil gasoline truck - Worked
at Union, Associated, and a Standard service
stations. Was a cook and then in the ration book
down dept in the local National Guard and U.S. Army
during W.W. II - After the war, back in the Guard as
Supply sergeant. Ended up working with his brother Paul
in a frozen food locker plant on Waterford Road

8. What is your birthdate?

I was born at 9:05 P.M. on March 5, 1919

9. Where were you born?

I was born in the 700 block on 6th Street next to the West Side Furniture Store. —

10. Was there anything unusual about the circumstances of your birth?

No. Only I was born 5 days before my cousin Robert L. Bright. — Also, my oldest brother Robert's birthday is March 7, (1915) and brother Jay's is March 12, (1917). — My mother usually had 1- birthday party for all 3 of us. —

11. Were you born in a hospital or at home?

At home. —

12. What is your full name and how was it chosen? Does it have a special meaning?

My full name is George Ernest White. — George is from great uncle George Washington White, my grandfather Alexander White's brother. — Ernest is from uncle Ernest Bright and great uncle Ernest DeCat on my mother's side of the family.



13. Who in your family do you most look like? On my mother's side, my cousin Irvin Elwell - more actions than look alike - On my father's side, a cousin Earl White.

14. How many brothers and sisters did you have? (List them in the order they were born and include children who may have died early in life or at birth)

Robert Alexander White - March 7, 1915

Fay Thomas White - March 12, 1917

My cousin Alice White - Clark Morlan - July 1, 1920

15. Where did you fit among them?

Between Fay and Alice. -



16. To whom did you feel closest?

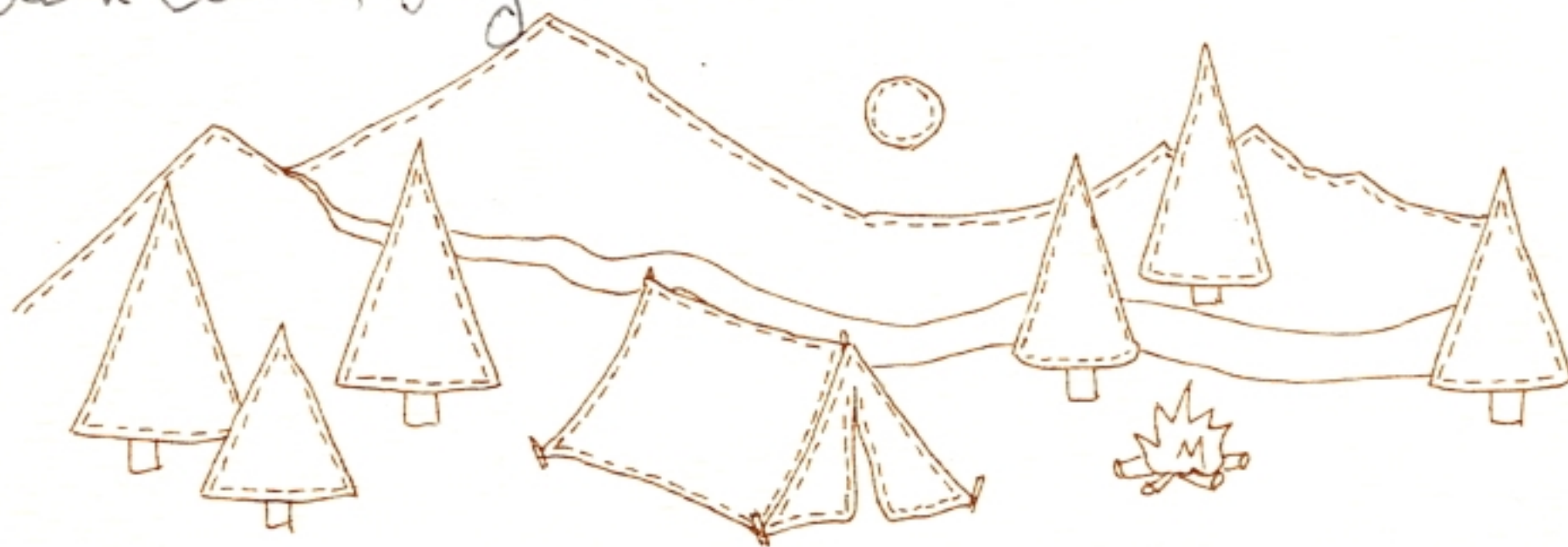
Alice

17. How did you spend your time together?

Living in the same household.
Going to school & church together
Going on vacations together.

18. Did you ever take trips or vacations with your family? Where did you go? Tell about a favorite one.

Our family, when we were young, always took trips and vacations together. Our two favorite vacation spots were Aspen Valley and Copacabana. - We did spend some vacations in Venice with Aunt Dorey & Fudge. Several trips to Monterey-San Francisco, and Santa Cruz. We always made a trip in winter or early spring to the snow. Usually Long Barn area or Pine Crest. On vacations we always camped out. In the early 30's Alice and I spent a few weeks at different times with Aunt Jay & Paul Kroth in San Francisco.



19. Was another language besides English spoken in your home? What was it?

None, outside of a little profanity now and then. Did study 2 years of Spanish in High School, but never used it.

20. Did your family attend a church or synagogue? Was religion an important part of your family life?

As children, we kids went to a small church on 2nd & H streets, next door to Aunt Rosie and Uncle (great) Lewis Spunker's home. Religion was a major factor in our home. However, my grandfather, Alex. White was very active in the Methodist Church in Modesto.

21. Did your family have enough money? Was it ever a concern for you?

When young, our family never had enough money. However, we did get by as most people did during the depression. We had our necessities, food, clothing and such, but not many luxuries. We did go to an occasional show and eat out once in a while. - we always had a car and as my father nearly always worked for an oil company, we got enough fuel to run it.

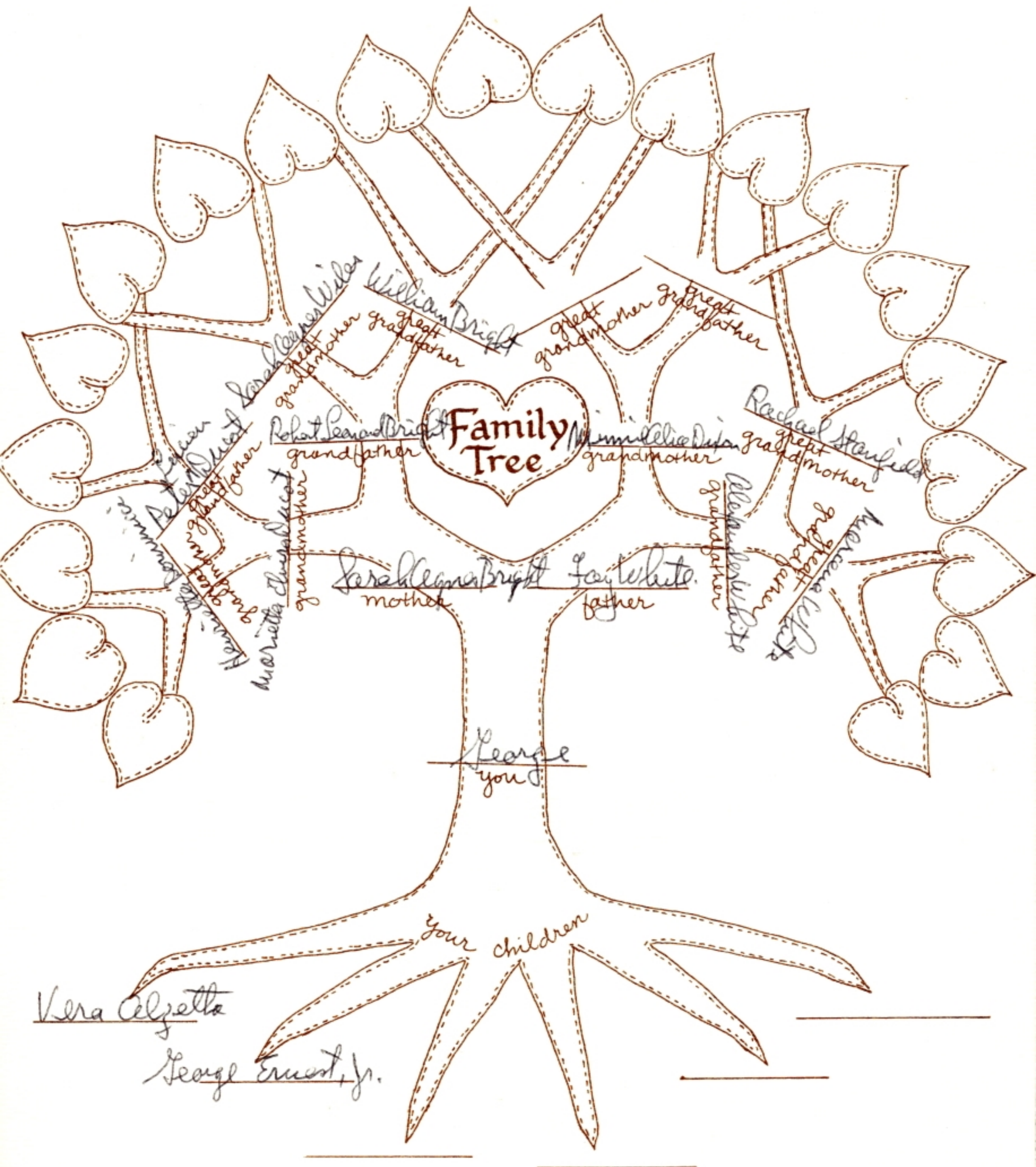
22. What were one or two of the worst times in your family like?

I guess our worst time was when in the early 30's my father lost his job with the Union Oil Company and was out of work for a while. We had to use the few dollars in our little bank accounts to get by. However, we did survive.

23. What were one or two of the best times like?

I guess the best times for me while young and still home, was when in 1934-35-36, during the summer I worked for Uncle Rob & Aunt Maude at Aspen Valley. That was like a vacation to me. - And of course I always enjoyed our vacations at Cayucas. - I always enjoyed going cat fishing with the family on the San Joaquin River - at Breesh's or Kirk's.





WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE...

(2-12 yrs.)



1. What is your first memory going back as far as you can?

About 1921-0122. My brothers lifting the side of my father's milk truck's side railing while we were on the back of it - I fell off and broke my 2 front baby teeth.

2. Where did you live? What do you most remember about your home(s)?

From what I am told - we live out 6th street in Modesto - On a farm on Hayson Road - On Grandpa White's Ranch - Orange Ave at Grandpa White's - On Madison Street in Modesto around 1921 and 1922 - at 216 - Maple Street.

3. Did you have any nicknames? What were they and did you like or dislike them?

I never had a nickname. -

4. Did you have any pets? Tell about them. We had various cats, The only dog I was friendly with was our neighbor's "Brownie" It lumped, I remember. - We had various chickens and ducks - Our favorite chickens were Jack and Biddie - a couple of bantams. -

5. What did you do for fun? Describe your favorite toy or game.

We played Hide and seek - kick the can - Dig cave in vacant lots. - In winter make sail boats and sailed them in the large mud puddles - made and flew kites in the spring - Go swimming in the terraced canals in the summer. Roasted apples and potatoes in the lots - Played checkers & cards.

6. Were you ever really sick?

I never was really sick when I was small - Flu, colds and such - In earlier I guess - My two brothers got the mumps, but Alice and I didn't. At 16 however, I had heart murrer? - Restricted exercise at school. -

7. What do you remember about the grammar school you attended? How did you get there? I started school in the kindergarten, at the Pioneer School at 6th & E in Modesto. Miss Gray was the teacher. 1-6 grades at Franklin and 7-8 at Roosevelt, 9-12 - Modesto W.I. - I walked to school. - Once, going to kindergarten, I asked the garbage man for a ride to school on his wagon - It was horse drawn.

8. Did you have any favorite books or stories? I never was much of a reader - I preferred short stories - I'm partial to Historical and Western articles. -

9. What did you want to be when you grew up? When I was young, I never really knew what I wanted to do - I was average or better in school so I was capable of various jobs. However, I had worked at my father's service station and small store at Casper Valley 34-36 so I did know a little retail. In May - 1937, after getting out of High School, I was offered a job at Safeway Stores on 6th and H St. - and took it.



10. What did your parents want you to do or be? They never set a goal for me. But as I did get a job upon finishing High School that was something. It turned out to be a steady job and I helped out the family with part of my earnings and took care of my needs.

11. Do you remember how much things cost?

Clothes - My first suit at Penney's - 19.00
Gold Cords - 5.00
Gallen Kamp shoes - "Friend Lines" 5.00
Shirts - 1.00 - 1.50 & up. - Socks 25¢ pair

Food - Milk & Bread - 10¢ per qt. & loaf
Peanut Butter - 15 per lb. - Peaches 2 1/2 can 7/27
Crackers - 15 per lb. - Ritz - 21 - Apples - Bananas 4 lbs. 25¢
Potatoes - 10¢ 25 for #1 A. - Candy - gum - 3 for 10¢

Movies -
Kids - .10 - Adults .25 and .35

Toys - Never bought many - However, I did get nephews Tom & John electric trains in 1937 for 5.00

Gasoline -
Associated - green-gold - .16 - Flying A - .18
Ethel - 21 per gallon -

Stamps - Post cards w/ stamp - 1¢ To mail a letter 2¢ - Later - 3¢ for letters sealed - 2¢ unsealed or greeting cards unsealed.

WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP (12 to 20 yrs.)...



1. What household chores or jobs did you have to do? Work in yard - weeding - mowing lawn - help do dishes - washing - housework etc. - At 18 I got a job a bfway. My parents both worked.

2. Did you get an allowance? How did you usually spend it?

At times we got a little spending money sometimes enough for a show - 10¢ and candy 5¢

3. What did you and your family use for transportation?

We always had an automobile of some sort. Geo - Overland - Cole - Neeson - Terraplane - Always in working order - Cars were simpler then and my dad was pretty handy fixing cars. -

4. How many years of secondary school did you complete?

I went four years at Modesto High School.

5. What parts of school did you like best? What parts did you like least?

I didn't mind school too much -

I liked math up to Geometry

My poor subjects were science

6. Did you play any sports in school?

In grammar school I played with the rest of the kids but in High School, because of my heart murmur - I was restricted to Ping Pong - Horse shoes and such. -

7. Were you involved in any music or drama activities? Tell about them.

I played (at) the B flat and Alto Clarinet in Junior Hi and the Alto Clarinet in High School - (9th grade) in the Bands. -

8. Did you receive any awards or prizes for achievements in athletics, scholarship, etc.? I wasn't outstanding in any sports or anything. However, we all got a little certificate for playing in the Roosevelt Band over Radio Station KFRQ. I did go with the band to the State ~~city~~ competition in Sacramento in 1931 or 32.

9. Were you a member of any clubs? What were they? I never joined any clubs. A group of us kids wanted to start a Boy Scout troop once, but couldn't find a sponsor.

10. What songs and dances were popular?

Ocelia, Let Me Call You Sweetheart, Peg of My Heart. Beer Barrel Polka, Yes Sir That's My Baby - Aint She Sweet. - Dances - Charleston - Fox Trot - Waltz - Jitterbug.

11. What kind of clothing did you wear?

How is it different from clothes worn by young people today?

I wore cords and long sleeve shirts to school - Rolled up the sleeve in the summer time. Wore overalls in younger days. - Sometimes no shirt in summer. - Today - they wear jeans & tennis shoes - short sleeve or T-shirts.

12. Who most influenced your thinking during this time and why?

I guess my parents and older brothers influenced my thinking. They were closest to me.

13. As a teenager, how did you get along with your parents?

We all got along fine at home —
No problems.

14. At what point did you move away from home? Why and where did you go?

I moved away from home when I got married - August 25, 1940.

We first lived in an apartment in the 600 block on 13th St in Modesto. One block from where I worked at Safeway.



FAMILY TRADITIONS AND CELEBRATIONS...



1. Did you celebrate any special family or ethnic holidays at your house?

Describe them. We usually had Thanksgiving Dinner at our house - Grandparents and some Aunts, Uncles, and ~~cousins~~ cousins. Also have some relatives over for Christmas Dinner - It was a tradition for several years for some of us to attend the Modesto Ki - Tarlock Ki foot-ball game on Thanksgiving Day before we ate dinner - ~~at~~ Either at Modesto or Tarlock. - Robert, my oldest brother, played football for Modesto Ki.

2. As a child, how did you usually celebrate your birthday?

Robert, Jay, and I, all have our birthdays in March - (7th, 12th & 5th) so mom had one party for the 3 of us - We had our friends and relatives over. -

3. What was the best gift you ever got when you were young?

Can't remember any special gift as most of ours were clothes. However, I did get a truck once and Aunt Drue & I used to send us assorted candies some times for Christmas. -

4. What was the best gift you ever gave?

While still in my teens (18) I gave a train set each to my two nephews at that time - Tom & John - Fay & Ann's boys. - (electric trains)

5. Were there any traditional or favorite recipes that were usually prepared for family gatherings?

One item my mother used to make on occasion, ~~was~~ two big platters of enchiladas. She made her own fried flour tortillas.

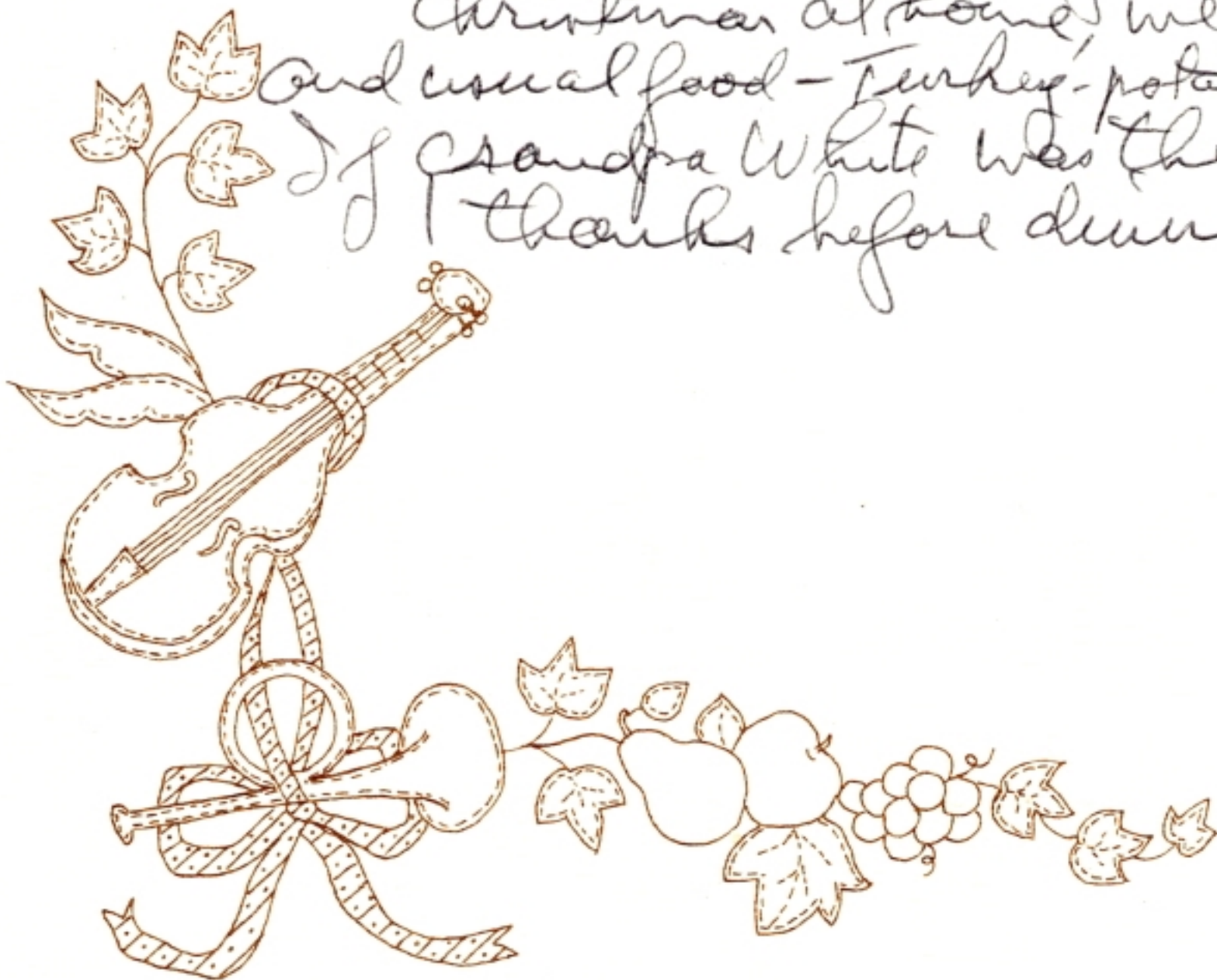
Also at Thanksgiving and Christmas we always had gams - baked with bacon, pineapple and marshmallows - Always apple cider - sometimes she made fruit cake - ahead of time - Lots of raisins as they were cheap (or free) in those days. -

6. What religious holidays were celebrated in your home? Describe the family traditions associated with each, special foods served, favorite music and readings, etc.

We celebrated Easter with hiding of Easter eggs etc. We usually had stuffed eggs for dinner cake etc. -

On one occasion we had Easter up at the Rodden Ranch where Grandpa Bright was tending sheep. He dyed some hard boiled eggs - using beet and onion peels - hid the eggs and wanted us kids to find them - He got the dates mixed up and put them out a week too soon - That year Easter was April 8th - He hid them on the 1st! We wouldn't hunt for them because we thought it was an April Fool's joke. However, he finally convinced us and we hunted and found the eggs O.K.

Christmas at home, we had our presents and usual food - Turkey - potatoes - gravy - dressing etc. If Grandpa White was there, he always gave thanks before dinner.



7. What family or holiday traditions have been the most meaningful to you?

Usually - Birthdays - Thanksgiving and Christmas - New Years has never been a big deal -

Since - 1962 - I try to get the family together for a picnic at or near Grandpa and Grandma's Homestead site near Don Pedro Dam. - As access to the site is hard to get to now. - We have been having it at Fleming Meadows Recreation Area near the Delta. -

Previous to these picnics, mom used to have a sort of picnic or party at her place on Maple Street in Modesto or at a nearby park - Usually in March. -



WHEN YOU GOT MARRIED..



1. How did you meet grandpa/grandma?

My mother brought "Grandma" into the Safeway store where I was working that Sunday - at 13th & H Streets in Modesto and introduced me to her. —

2. How old were you when you met?

I was 20 years old. —

3. What attracted you to each other?

She was plain and our families had known each other for years

4. What do you remember most about the courtship?

We just went to shows together and short trips in the country on my days off from work. -

5. When and where was the wedding?

We were married on August 25, 1940 in a church in Reno, Nevada - We had visited and got our licence at Virginia City.

6. What did you wear?

I wore a sport coat and slacks.

7. What is your strongest memory from your wedding?

We had made arrangements with Dorothy Dufay, my dad's cousin in Verdi, Nevada. After being married, we had our wedding dinner at her folks place in Verdi. My mother went with us to get married for one of the witnesses. We got back to our apartment about 12:00 P.M. Baby buggy on the front porch and our suite clothes served up at the bottom. -

8. Who was there (in general)?

At the wedding in the church, there was the preacher & his wife, mom, and Dorothy Dixon my father's cousin. - The congregation had gone already. -

9. Did you go on a honeymoon? Tell about it.

We didn't have much of a Honeymoon. I took two days off. We made a trip to Treasure Island in S. F. Bay to see the display there.

10. What was your adjustment to married life like? Were there any surprises?

Getting adjusted was gradual. I had to accept some of her habits and the some of mine. One of the first things I found out she didn't like the radio on most of the time.



11. Tell a favorite story or two about grandpa/grandma.

I guess it was the first time she baked a ham. She salted it like a roast. - It was very salty. -

12. Have you been married more than once? When and to whom?

Just once. —

13. How times were different then...

Entertainment - We listened to the radio
Went to a show now and then.
Took rides in the country.
Went fishing mostly with Grandma Earl.

Toys - Dolls usually for Vera - clothes.
Train sets for Emil - Footballs - Balls & Bats

Chores or Cleaning - About like when I was
growing up - Lawns to mow - A little fixing up
Building chicken houses - Painting - General yard
work -

Shopping - As I was working at Safeway, I
would do most of the grocery shopping.
Nazel does most of the other. -



Transportation - We started out with a 2 door 1940 De Soto - Sold it in 1942. and got a 1934 4 door Chevy which got us there & back during the war years. - In 1947 - got a 1940 Buick. In 1952 got a 1950 Chevy Wagon from Alice & Harry. They went to England. Our first New auto was a 1956 station wagon - Chevy. - Had a work car for a while too - 1950 4 door Chevy - In 1965 got a 1963 Rambler - In 1967 got a new 6 cy. Chevy pick-up. 1972 - got our New 4 door Chevy Impala. -

Money/Economy - When we got married, I was earning 25.00 per week at Safeway - 6-9 hr days. - We purchased just what we needed - Couldn't afford many luxuries. We most always had a small garden. We made or less lived from week to week - I never believed in renting, so we bought a home as soon as we could. - That helps - Payments 25.00 per month plus taxes & insurance

Working - My first paying job was summer work at Asplen 1935-36 - 20.00 per. mo. 1937 - played me in clothes. - In May - 1937 started at Safeway - part time 30 per hr. for a month Full time in June 20.00 - 60 hr week - Worked at Safeway off & on til May 30, 1952. Worked 2 1/2 weeks for Pauling Producers in 1943 - And Hammon Gen. Hook F.D. for Uncle Clarence from June '43 to March '45, for Bob Knipper June 45 to Nov. Fired from Safeway as manager - earning 125.00 per week, worked for

Cooking - Don Mullin liquors from last week in June '52 to Jan '82 part time since. Hazel does all the cooking except pancakes now and then. - She learned well from her Grandma Est. For years she cooked on a gas stove. But we now have and she prefers an electric range. -

Raising a family - Having one girl and one boy wasn't too much of a problem. - They caused us no trouble - They got a fair education at school. - We took them with us wherever we went. -

14. What do we have now that you didn't have then? - Many Things

3 - T.V.s - 3 - Radios - 8 track and cassette recorders
Video recorder - 2 vehicles - larger home - paid for -
Use of a cabin in the mountains - many electrical items
Power lawn mower - A daughter in law - a son-in-law
6 grand children. - Aching joints. -

15. What did you have then that we don't have now?

Two small children - Bills - Better Health,

BIG EVENTS IN YOUR LIFE...



1. What is the funniest thing that ever happened to you?

2. What was your proudest moment?

When our two children were born - one of each -
And when I finally donated my 100th unit
of blood - I've given two more since - Now at
66 yrs - I'm thru donating

3. Most embarrassing moment?

Probably when I started changing my own oil
in the pick-up - I drained the old out, put
on the new oil filter, and filled the crank
case with 5 quarts of oil - But - I forgot
to put the drain plug back in the oil pan. -
What a mess to clean up. -

4. Saddest or most painful time?

Probably when my parents passed away. —

5. Where have you lived as an adult?

Where have you most enjoyed living and why? As an adult, my first 10 years was in Modesto at various places, near relatives and friends. The rest of the time as of now (about 35 years) have been in Stockton — a few friends and our immediate family. I guess I enjoyed living in Modesto most because of family and friends — But the town now is too big and friends are gone —

6. What is the biggest trip you have ever taken? Where, when and with whom?

The longest trip I've taken was in 1939 to Riley & Manhattan Kansas with my mother to see some of my dad's relatives back there. Also to see where my dad was born.

7. Did you ever serve in the military or become involved in wartime service?

When and where?

I was in the Calif. National Guard from 1935-38 prior to the war. During the war years I was in the State Militia and worked in the Fire Dept. at Hammond General Hospital - a Military installation during W.W.II from June 1943 to March 1945

8. Did you receive any higher education beyond high school? Where? No. -

9. What was your major course of study?

I took what is called a General Academic Course in High School. -

10. What honors or educational degrees have you earned?

School Honor Roll is all. -



11. Apart from school, what have been your most important learning experiences?

Practical Retail at Safeway & Dan Mellis Liquors.

Some Fire Lighting and preventive fire uses. —

Be careful with power tools. —

12. To what organizations have you belonged?
(List only those that have been most important to you)

None.

13. Have you ever been hospitalized? What for?

I was in the University of California Clinic in 1935 - for tests - mainly Heart, lungs, albumin in urine etc. —

14. What was your first full-time job?
How much did you earn and what responsibilities did you have?

First full time job was with Safeway -
60 hrs. per week \$20.00 per week - stocking,
checking - all around work. -

15. What kinds of work have you done?

For pay - Service station. - Grocery
clerk and manager. Drove truck to deliver
feed and pick up eggs for poultry producers.
Fire Dept - Hammond General Hospital -
Dan Meller's Liquor Store. -

Volunteer -

1934 - At Asper - worked in store & gas
pumps - did dishes - "wrangled" horses,
milked cows - Planted trout in Morrison
Creek - Other odds & ends up there.



16. What have been your favorite hobbies or pastimes?

Taking picture - Carpenter work.
Repairing small items.

17. Do you have any collections (e.g. stamps, coins, rocks)?

No real collections

18. Are there any family heirlooms that have been passed from one generation to another?

Have grandpa and grandpa Bright's
phonograph - 1 chair and a rocker. -
Also - The East's family Seth Thomas clock.

19. Have you ever met anyone famous?

General Russell Maxwell, Hazel's uncle and Grandpa
East's son by her first marriage. - Also years ago
Charley Dressen of baseball fame. -

20. What major inventions have been developed in your lifetime?

The Airplane - Rockets - Atomic Bombs -
cheaper aluminum - Painless Dentistry - Laser Beam
Computers - Electric Refrigerators - Electronic Ovens
T.V. - Radio - Jet powered planes and boats - Ball
Point Pen. - Cordless Telephone -

21. To what political party have you belonged? Democratic, but vote Republican most of the time.

22. Have you been actively involved in politics, either as a candidate or campaign supporter?

No. -



23. As you look back do you have any favorite years? What made them so special? Actually I guess my favorite years were around High School age. — However, I always looked forward to retirement when I could take it easy — no rush. — Not realizing that most of my get-up and go has got up and went.

24. What is the one time in your life you'd like to live over? Just when I got out of school. If I knew then what I know now possibly I would have chosen a different life.

YOUR VIEWS AND FEELINGS...



1. What are some of the best books you have ever read?

I really haven't read many. I'd rather see them on T.V. -

2. What is one of your favorite sayings?

I'll do it later. -
When people ask me how I am, I say, "I wake up in the morning, I look at the obituary column in the paper, if my name isn't in there, I go eat breakfast."

3. What do you most value in a friend?

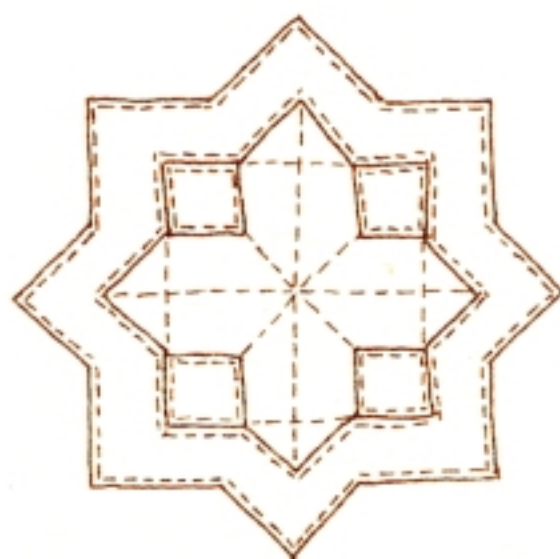
Truthfulness and honesty. -

4. What issues or causes have you felt strongly about?

I've always donated to Boy's Town. I liked to help the young to get a good start in life. I've donated to the T. B. Association as several of the family did have the sickness - Also - I always tried to donate blood to the cause - I ended up donating 102 units before I had to stop at age - 66. -

5. What values or religious beliefs do you hold dear?

I believe in religious marriages and burials. I don't believe a person has to spend a lot of time in church to be really religious. I do believe and celebrate the religious holidays even the date of the happenings are not exactly accurate. -



6. In times of trouble, who or what has helped pull you through?

My closest relatives and closest friends

7. What major happenings in the world have affected your life most?

World War II partly - Lost some friends and relatives. —

Also the cost of living - Prices - Wages - Items go up in price - You get a raise in wages - That makes the price of items go up again - You don't get ahead - You just spin your wheels. —

8. What's your best advice for your grandchildren?

Study - go to school - Learn what you can — and take advantage what you learn - Make friends with the right people - Don't try to get rich overnight - And put away a little for that rainy day. —
Invest in the future. —
Adjust to conditions. —

ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN...



1. What are your children's names and when were they born?

Vera Alzetta - Born June 11, 1941

George Ernest, Jr. - Born December 17, 1945

2. How did you choose their names?

Have any of them been passed down through the family?

Vera Alzetta was named after her maternal grandmother and great grandmother.

Ernie took my name which came from my great uncles on both sides of my parents family.

3. What are some of your favorite recollections of your family life when your children were young?

Vacationing at Cayucas and Aspen Valley
Trips to Santa Cruz - San Francisco and rides
in the mountains - snow and such -
Vera's music - Teaching Ernie to fish
and outdoor life. -

4. In what ways did you raise your children similarly to your parents?

We took them with us on vacations and
such like our parents did us when we
were small. We helped try to settle their
problems. -

5. In what ways did you raise them differently?

We did try to give them things that we couldn't afford when we were growing up. Also tried to attend activities that they participated in as much as we could.

6. What parts of being a parent have been most difficult or trying for you?

Trying to guide our children after they were grown and married. Their outlook on life seem to be different than ours was. —



7. What parts were easiest or most rewarding?

When the children were real young and their demands weren't too great.

8. How did you find out that you'd become a grandparent for the first time? How did you feel?

Paul, the son-in-law called us from the hospital to tell us he was a father. -
I felt older -

9. What part of being a grandparent do you like best?

When the family is all together at special occasions like Christmas, birthdays and such. - And being looked up to as being the cause of all this. -

